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describes a circle in the heavens. In every rotating body, one such line can be so drawn that the circle described by it in the sky becomes infinitely small. This is the *axis* of the body. Another set of points can be found such that lines drawn from the center of gravity outward through *them* describe a great circle in the sky 90° distant from the point pierced by the axis, and these points constitute the *equator* of the body."

SCIENTIFIC VISITORS TO THE LICK OBSERVATORY.

(Dr. S. P. LANGLEY, Prof. VIOLLE, Colonel DEFFORGES, Mr. SERVISS, Doctors LUMMER, KURLBAUM, PRINGSHEIM, LINDECK and WEDDING.)

During September and early October we have had the pleasure of visits from many astronomers and physicists of distinction. Dr. LANGLEY, Director of the Smithsonian Institution was with us for several days; Colonel DEFFORGES made a determination of the force of gravity here (the fourth dermination: see these *Publications*, Vol. I, p. 125; III, p. 282; IV, p. 266) and was accompanied by Professor VIOLLE; Mr. SERVISS, Director of the American *Urania*, Doctors LINDECK and WEDDING were here for short times; and Doctors LUMMER, PRINGSHEIM and KURLBAUM came as representatives of the *Reichsanstalt*. The Astronomical Congress of Chicago has done the LICK Observatory a great service by sending some of its delegates here for an additional and informal session.

E. S. H.

STABILITY OF THE GREAT EQUATORIAL, 1888-1893.

Observations for the position of the great telescope have been made by Messrs. SCHAEBERLE, KEELER, CAMPBELL and TUCKER as below:

1888, July 27, azimuth = $+ 36''$; level = 8" too low.

1889, May 18, " = ... ; " = 36 " "

Sept. 16, " = $+ 83$; " = 58 " "

1890, Aug. 23, " = $(+54)$; " = 114 " "

Telescope adjusted.

1891, June 30, azimuth = ... ; level = 35" too low.

Holding-down bolts tightened.

1892, Aug. 5, azimuth = $+ 51''$; level = 25" too high.

1893, Sept. 23, " = $+ 48''$; " = 57" " low.

E. S. H.